THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the 2001 census, the literacy rate in the country was 64.8%. Kerala has the highest literacy rate and Bihar has the lowest literacy rate in the country.

(c) The universalisation of elementary education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. In the elementary education sector, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been launched with a holistic and convergent approach to implement Universalisation of Elementary Education in a mission mode with the district focus. The goals of SSA are:-

- All Children in School, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, 'Back-to-School' camp by 2003.
- All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007.
- All children complete eight years of elementary schooling by 2010.
- Focus on elementary education for satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.
- Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010.
- Universal retention by 2010.

The National Literacy Mission **(NLM)** aims to provide functional literacy to non-literates in 15—35 age group. The thrust areas of NLM are improving female literacy in low female literacy areas, to organize residual illiteracy projects in areas, which have substantial number of illiterates, and to set up continuing education centres for providing opportunities for life long learning to the neo-literates.

Promotion and development of management education

2016. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to divest AICTE of the responsibility relating to regulation grant of approval and recognition of management courses;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a separate regulatory body for regulating promotion and development of management education exclusively on the lines of AICTE;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) At present, there is no proposal to divest the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) of the responsibility to regulate management education and entrust it to a separate body. However, the Estimates Committee (2003-04) in its Nineteenth Report has *inter-alia,* expressed the view that AICTE should be divested of the responsibility relating to grant of approval and recognition to management courses and the same may be entrusted to a separate body. The Government has decided to consult the major stakeholders in the light of this recommendation.

Centrally sponsored scheme for teachers-education

†2017. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the resolution expressed in the National Education Policy and Action Programme for the restructuring of teacher-education in 1986-87, a Centrally sponsored scheme was introduced in 1987 in which 5 norms had been fixed;

(b) if so, the States and the number of districts wherein this Centrally sponsored scheme was implemented; and

(c) the latest achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI. ASHRAF FATMI): (a) A Centrally-sponsored Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teacher Education was launched in 1987 with five components.

(b) and (c) The details are as under: -

(i) 41.17 lakh teachers were oriented in all States and Union Territories (except Andaman and Nicobar Islands) under the component of Mass/Special Orientation of School Teachers,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.